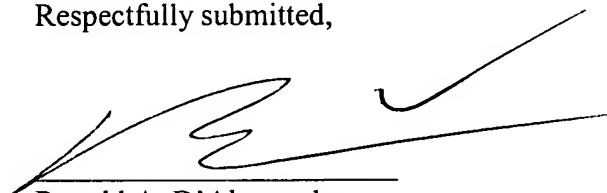


## CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been added and that all claims are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner require anything further to place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald A. D'Alessandro  
Reg. No. 42,456

Date:

4/11/2002

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**Applicant:** Murphy et al.

**Serial No.:** 10/047,307

**Filing Date:** January 15, 2002

**Title:** METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR  
RECEIVING AN ALERT CODE IN  
A COMMERCIAL TRANSACTION



**Art Unit:** 2164

**Docket No.:** END920020094US1

**Examiner:** Unknown

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Sir:

SEPARATE SHEET

**The paragraph spanning page 11, lines 10-16:**

In an alternative [alternatively] embodiment, user 38 could designate that he/she will communicate with message center 44 to retrieve messages from certain contacts on the list, and directly communicating with other contacts. For the contacts user 38 will communicate with directly, user 38 could also request that an alert be attached only to a certain number of transactions (e.g., one, two, etc.) after a message has been left. This avoids the user 38 having to receive numerous unnecessary alerts for a message already retrieved.

**The paragraph spanning page 11, line 17 to page 12, line 9:**

In the event sender 36 leaves the message at the message center 44, user 38 could contact message center 44 and retrieve the message by providing his/her unique identifier. This is accomplished via message transmission system 34, which is similar to message reception system 26 and can be any combination of hardware, software, and/or personnel. If message transmission system 34 is automated, user 38 could be prompted to enter his/her unique identifier (e.g., PIN) using touch tones to retrieve the message (e.g., hear the recorded message, or be connected to a live person who will read the message). Once user 38 has retrieved the message, attachment system 32 will cease attaching alerts. Optionally, message transmission system 34 could also send a confirmation of retrieval to sender 36. This can be either accomplished by direct live contact by message center 44, or by electronic means (e.g., an electronic mail message similar to a read receipt). In either event, the confirmation of retrieval could be made standard for all messages, or could be on the basis of request by sender 36 in exchange for a fee.